Completion of Talcher-Bimlagarh Rail Line

441. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey work of the proposed Talcher-Bimlagarh Rail Line has been completed;

(b) whether this rail line would go through ST, SC and OBC populated areas; and

(c) if so, whether Government would take up the work on this line at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Such data is not maintained. However, the line passes through economically and industrially backward area.

(c) The survey report is under examination in consultation with the Zonal Railway. Further consideration of the project will be possible once this examination is over.

Railway bridges in use

442. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Railway bridges throughout the country which are in daily use as on date;

(b) the total number of railway bridges which are averaged and crying for large scale repair;

(c) whether the bridge over the river Dhabe near Rafiganj where the accident of the Rajdhani Express took place on the night of 9th September, 2002 is one of them; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not taking adequate precaution before permitting the Rajdhani Express to move on the bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) There are 1,19,984 Railway Bridges throughout the country which are in daily use.

(b) The rehabilitation & rebuilding of Railway Bridges is not decided merely on basis of age but on age-cum-physical condition basis and technical consideration. Therefore, concept of overage is not used in context of Railway Bridges. There are 527 Railway Bridges which have been found to be distressed as on 1.4.2002 and all of them have been sanctioned for rehabilitation/rebuilding.

(c) The bridge over river Dhabe where the accident of Rajdhani Express took place on the 9th September, 2002 is not one of the bridges identified as distressed.

(d) Does not arise.

Fast trains between Madgaon and Mumbai

443. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMAMOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways are considering to introduce the fastest train in the country, to link Madgaon and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) by when the Ministry propose to introduce the train;

(d) whether the Ministry propose to extend the same to other cities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

ROBs/RUBs in Uttar Pradesh

†444. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of over bridges and under bridges being constructed on the Railway lines passing through Uttar Pradesh for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.